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Canvassers wanted. JAMES H. GANT.

GAME OF THE DEVIL.

It Hails from China and Used to Be Played in Europe. What is called the "tiame of the Devil" dates back in China, where it is alled Kouen-gen, to a very remote acciquity, and has been much played n France at different epochs of modera times, especially at the beginning of the present century.

The "devil" is thrown into the air by

means of a string which the player keeps taut by the skillful use of two ticks, and upon which he is to eatch it. "I remember having often seen this game in the hands of one of my friends," says a contributor to a French periodical. "According to him, the game was in great favor in Belgium in his boyhood, about fifteen years ago, especially at colleges, where the young nen often got up genuine matches between two and even three players. The form of the devil varies a little from that of the 'Kouen-gen.' It is made of two tin cones connected by their apieces, and provided with apertures for the production of a humming ound when the devil revolves very fast. A good strong player can easily brow it to a height of more than forty

Something less than a quarter of a century ago this game was much played at Paris. The devil was made of two follow boxwood balls.

UPROOTING ALPINE ROSES. What One Swiss Canton Protects Another

Pays for Destroying. There is a reverse side to the beauty and popularity of the "Alpenrosen." A notice which has just run the round of the Swiss press states, says the Westminster Gazette, that the Canton of Appenzell Inner Rhodes has now followed some of the other Cantonal governments by prohibiting the plucking up of Alpeniosen by the roots. Hereupon the Vaterland of Lucerne remarks. that the government of Canton Graubanden has done the clean contrary. It gives money every year for the rooting out of "Alpine roses," because on many of the Graubunden mountains they cover extensive ranges of land, which are thus rendered useless for cultivation or pasture. The Cantonal Ban-department pays considerable attention to this form of reclamation, and the uprooters of the romantie flower, who are regarded as barbarians in other Cantons, are there regarded as

local patriots. FACTS AND FIGURES.

THERE are 150,000,000 opium smokers n China. TWELVE average tea plants produce ae pound of tea.

THE railroads of this country employ 33,136 locomotives. It is estimated that the land in the United States is worth \$12,500,000,000. Tue king of Samoa has forbidden his ubjects to sell or to use intoxicating

THE University of Chicago conferred its first degree of doctor of philosophy upon a Japanese.

An ant's brain is larger, in proportion

to the animal's size, than that of any other creature known. Last year the postmasters of this country handled about 4,000,000,000 pieces of stamped paper. Sig John Harr declares that the Chi-

nese pay every year for their national

curse, opium, \$100,000,000.

EVEN WITH THE COMPANY. Bluff" from a New Englander That Rub-

The game of "bluff" in honest hands is seldom a winning one, yet an honest young man evened up a loss one day last week through the first bit of "bluff" he had ever tried in his life.

He hailed from New England and making a trip to Mamaroneck on the he should be warned when nearing the station, he realized nothing until he had reached Stamford, when the forbeyond his destination. "And shall I have to pay my fare

back?" he inquired. get back any other way," was the re-

With a sense of unjust treatment

He made the same trip again two

"See here, conductor," addressing

when he stepped off the train.

RUBIES are manufactured. AGATE is successfully imitated. THE snail's mouth is in its foot. CAMPHOR grows on trees in Japan.

THE title rabbi means master or

teacher. DRAMAS in India are played in the open air.

of influenza. in Kentucky.

Ir the grain shocks are allowed to stand very long in the fields which

20c. per yard.

bed Out an Old Score.

ignorant of New York railroads was New York, New England and Hartford line. Promised by the conductor that getful official turned up to inform him regretfully that he was a dozen miles

"Don't exactly see how you could

the young man purchased a ticket and rode back in the next train.

days later. This time he knew just where his station was but falling into a sound sleep he let himself be carried past it until by a strange coincidence he found himself again at Stamford. With an air of injured independence he boarded the next train back.

that functionary. "I've been carried through the stupidity of another of your blooming conductors twelve miles out of my way, and if you suppose I'm going to pay you for taking me back again you're pretty far out. You may call for any fare you please. I will not pay it. There's a lot more than that due me for my inconvenience."

"All right, sir," answered the conductor meekly, completely overawed by the apparent depth of resentment confronting him.

"I'm even with that company, murmured the provincial youth blandly

IN A NUTSHELL.

THE first alphabet had but sixteen letters. NEW BRUNSWICK has a small leper colony.

THE smallest known microbe is that Fossil bisons have been unearthed In geologic time the horse was no

larger than a fox. AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

An exchange reports that grease weed which is invading the country from the north is likely to prove almost as damaging as the Russian thistle.

were sowed to clover last spring they are liable to kill the plants they cover and thus create bare spots in the fields. A PLOWING match is announced as one of the features of the Iowa state fair this year. This method will be adopted for determining the relative merits of the implements placed upon exhibition.

gian Mandarin.

His Story as Related by Himself to a Couple of American Tourists Whom He Entertains in Royal Fashion.

A MYSTERIOUS OFFICIAL.

The Romantic Career of a Bel-

While the young American bieyelists, Messrs. Allen and Sachtleben, were crossing the desert of Gobi, they heard much of a mysterious and powerful official called the Ling Darin. No one could tell who or what he was. Finally, as they emerged from the desert, starved, ill and ragged, they were met by a richly-dressed mandarin, according to the story they tell in the Century. He greeted them cordially in clear but broken English, and, mounted on waiting horses, they were attended into the city of Su-chou. "It was some time before the idea flashed across our minds that this might indeed be the mysterious Ling Darin about whom we had heard so much. 'Yes, said he, 'that is what I am called here. but my real name is Splingard." He then went on to tell us that he was a Belgian by birth; that he had traveled extensively through China, as the com panion of Baron Richthofen, and had thus become so thoroughly acquainted with the country and its people that on his return to the coast he had been offered by the Chinese government the position of custom mandarin at Suchou, a position just then established for the levying of duty on the Russian goods passing in through the northwest provinces; that he had adopted the Chinese dress and mode of living, and had even married, many years ago, a Chinese girl educated at the Catholic schools in Tientsin. "We were so absorbed in this roman-

tie history that we scarcely noticed the crowds that lined the streets lead ing to the Ling Darin's palace, until the boom of a cannon recalled us to our situation. From the smile on the jolly face beside us we knew at once whom we could hold responsible for this reception. The palace gates were now thrown open by a host of servants. and in our rags and tatters we rolled at once from the hardships of the inhospitable desert into the lap of

"A surplus is not always so easily isposed of as a deficit-at least we were inclined to think so in the case of our Su-chou diet. The Ling Darin's table, which, for the exceptional occasion, was set in the foreign fashion with knives and forks, fairly teemed with abundance and variety. There was even butter, made from the milk of the Tibetan vak, and condensed milk for our coffee, the first we had tasted since leaving Turkey, more than a year before. The Ling Darin informed us that a can of this milk, which he once presented to Chinese friends, had been mistaken for a face osmetic, and was so used by the adies of the family. The Ling Darin's wife we found an excellent and even irtistic cook, while his buxom twin daughters could read and write their own language-a rare accomplishment

for a Chinese woman. "As guests of our highly respected and even venerated host, we were visited by nearly all the magistrates of the city. The Ling Darin was never before compelled to answer so many questions. In self-defense he was at last forced to get up a stereotyped speech to deliver on each social ocasion. The people, too, besieged the palace gates, and clamored for an exhibition. Although our own clothes had been sent away to be boiled, we ould not plead this as an excuse. The flowing Chinese garments which had been provided from the private wardrobe of the Ling Darin fluttered wildly in the breeze, as we rode out through the city at the appointed hour. Our Chinese shoes, also, were constantly slipping off, and as we raised the foot o readjust them, a shout went up from the crowd for what they thought was

a fancy touch in the way of riding." THE GREAT ARTISTS.

Pollaguolo was the son of a poulterer, whence his name, and began his career as a wood carver.

BURGEMAIR was one of the first painters to execute court scenes, such as coronations and marriages. Guido's later works are very inferior.

They were painted in haste, to raise money for the gaming table. D'Avanzo was the first modern painter who attempted to give an optical illusion to his pictures.

Holbein was only sixteen years old when first engaged in painting altar pieces for the churches in Basle. DURER was the son of a goldsmith, and, showing an appreciation of art,

was apprenticed to a draughtsman. Valesquez was a self-educated painter. His scenes and models were generally taken from peasant life. TITIAN began to sketch before he

was four years old. His favorite models were his wife and daughter. JANSSEN'S life was made miserable by an extravagant wife, and his last years were passed in extreme want. JEAN COUSIN was originally a glass stainer, who left that business to become the first historical painter of

France. ITEMS OF INTEREST.

THERE are three times as many widows as widowers. LETTUCE and onions, eaten just before retiring, cause sleep.

Boiling tar, applied to masonry, makes it impervious to water. SEVEN THOUSAND insects are required to make one pound of cochineal.

GEORGE BUNBARY, a Dublin shorthand writer, can record 250 words in a FULLY 4,000,000 people in this country are sustained by the wages earned by

railroad employes.

THE redwood forests of California have become almost depleted by the demand for railroad ties. Photographs have been taken of the bottom of the sea, fully five hundred feet below the surface.

THE apple grows wild in the Sandwich islands. There are forests of them, most of them neglected. SEVENTEEN transatlantic cables have been laid, but only seven are in use. The others have given out.

A CATERPILLAR is so greedy that in one month it usually devours six thousand times its own weight in food.

HIS BARGAIN.

He Traded a Yoke of Oxen for a Volume of Shakespeare. A noted character on the border thirty-five years ago was old Jim Bridger, of Fort Bridger, Utah. This man, relates the Youth's Companion, on one occasion visited New York, and saw Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" performed. He had no clear

idea as to who Shakespeare was, but

he conceived the most extravagant admiration for his genius. He returned to the fort, and resumed the selling of stock and supplies to travelers and emigrants. One day a man came who had set his heart upon buying a particular yoke of oxen, with which, for some reason or other, Jim

was determined not to part. The man sent a messenger one morning to make a final appeal for the desired yoke, but Jim proved obdurate, remarking that "there wa'n't no use talkin' about it any more."

"Well, he wants 'em," said the messenger. "He's a-waitin' for 'em; he jest sets there readin' a book called Shakespeare' and a-waitin' for them oxen. "What!" ejaculated Jim, springing to

his feet. "Here you, gimme my boots!"

He ran to the corral as fast as his legs would carry him. "Stranger," he gasped, breathlessly, when he had reached the man, "jest gimme that book and take them oxen.' "Oh, no," said the man; "I just

brought the book to read on the way, not to sell. "Stranger," returned Jim, firmly, jest you take them oxen and gimme over that book. The man did so, after some demur-

ring, and Jim, who hired a reader to

further his acquaintance with the ob-

ject of his admiration, was never heard

to complain of his bargain, but rather

An Instance of Instinct Related by a

boasted of it on many occasions. BIRDS COME BACK.

Truthful Southern Man. Mr. C. B. Smith, secretary of the Jacksonville board of trade, relates a wonderful story of a bird's instinct, which he vouches for. It is to the following effect: Some time in April last a Chicago woman who was visiting him, she being Mrs. Smith's niece, purchased two nonpareils. On the tenth of that month, as she was getting ready to go home, by some means the cage door was opened and the female bird escaped. She did not desire

to take one bird with her, and she left the male bird in the cage at Mr. Smith's, says the Savannah News. The other morning, as Mrs. Smith was in the room where the cage containing the single bird was, another bird flew through the open window and began circling around the room and finally perched itself near the cage. Mrs. Smith looked at it attentively, and then said to her servant, who stood near by, that this was the bird that had flown off some months before. The servant was incredulous, but Mrs. Smith went up to the strange bird and held out her hand. With a little flutter it settled on her finger. She opened the cage and the bird hopped in, seemingly pleased to get back again. Its mate was at first rather shy of the stranger but within an hour the two were chatting away in

bird language at a great rate. A CURIOUS PROVISION.

One of Nature's Ways of Protecting Her Own. "Nature has wonderful ways of guarding against the extinction of species," said a Wichita (Kan.) man to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat writer. "The manner in which the eggs and young of the prairie chicken and other ground-nesting birds are protected against their numerous enemies is specially curious. Their escape is attributed by the majority of sportsmen to the alleged fact that in nesting birds the scent which is given out at other times is suppressed. In proof of this statement the fact is adduced that dogs, even those of the keenest powers of smell, will pass within a few feet, or even a less distance of a nesting pheasant without showing the least suspicion that game is near, if only the bird is concealed from sight. This would seem to be pretty strong evidence, but some naturalists refuse to be convinced. They reason that secretions and exhalations are involuntary and therefore cannot be suppressed by the will of an animal. Take whichever side you will. To me it seems likely that, as the exhalation is involuntary, its suppression during incubation may be equally so, and both may be accounted for on physiological grounds when the prying eyes of our naturalists are turned in that direc-

THE BICYCLE. A New Work to Which That Useful Ma-

chine Has Been Put. The bicycle is being put to many strange uses in these days. It is no longer an instrument for pleasure alone. It is used, of course, everywhere as a cheap and rapid means of transportation, and has the advantage over the horse of not eating anything. That its use in war has been contemplated has been well understood, and that before long it will figure in the

army is very likely. But it is doubtful if the inventor of the machine ever thought anybody would utilize a bicycle in the way that it is used up in Berkshire, Mass., where the boys can be seen at night, mounted on their "bikes," going after the cows. The only difficulty is, of course, to be able to ride slow enough, and with this sort of practice those youngsters ought to be able to win a slow bicycle race anywhere.

Washington's Pavements.

"Washington to-day," says a correspondent, "has more asphalt pavements than any city in the country with the exception of Buffalo. Of the 164 miles of improved streets in Washington 71 are paved with asphalt, making, 1,773,-057 square yards. For the streets on which heavy hauling is done cobblestone is generally used. Of this pavement 14% miles have been laid. The heavy grades have been principally paved with granite blocks, of which 2814 miles have been laid. In the northeast section of the city the asphalt block has been found to answer the purpose very satisfactorily, and over 13 miles have been put down within recent years. There are still 25 miles of streets laid with coal tar and 11% of macadam."

INGRATITUDE OF NATIONS.

An Instance of It Toward a Hero of the

Franco-German War. A pathetic story of national ingratitude has been going the rounds of the London papers, which is interesting enough to be repeated, especially as it concerns those days of intense interest daring which Paris was last in siege. Publicity has been given it by the fact that the hero of the incident has just gone into a French hospital in poverty. there to die. The Pall Mall Gazette thus tells the tale:

"When the German lines, in the autumn of 1870, were gradually closing their boa-constrictor grasp round the doomed capital, Durnof was the hero of the hour. An experienced aeronaut, who had three times been dashed into the sea and had run many other narrow escapes, he proposed with his old balloon Neptune to carry a mail out of Paris and to run the gauntlet of the beleaguering armies. At daybreak, on September 23, he set out on his adventurous journey, the director of the posts assuring him, as he handed in the dispatches and the pigeons, that his courage and devotion would meet with a splendid reward. Durnof succeeded in his task, and landed safe and sound at

Evreux, but the poor old Neptune was never fit for another ascent." "Twenty-two years elapsed, but the unhappy aeronaut never received a penny from successive governments. Even his claim for the value of his balloon, which had been used until destroyed by the military authorities, failed to obtain the slightest recognition. After a couple of decades he got the bronze medal accorded to all who carried dispatches by balloon, and last year a small monthly grant was made which barely sufficed to keep him from starvation. Swindlers and imposters of all kinds laid the foundations of future fame and fortune in the siege of Paris, but the first man who opened up communications between the imprisoned inhabitants and the outer world seems likely to die in dishonor and

despair." DISCOVERER OF TOBACCO.

A Spaniard Named Pane Used It Before Either Nicot or Raleigh.

Though Sir Walter Raleigh was the first to introduce tobacco into this country, says the London Daily News, inquiries into the history of the weed are familiar with the fact that it had already been unported into Europ before Raleigh was born. The facts are retold in an official summary by Sir George Bonham of the recent financial statement of the Spanish minister of finance. Naturally, the subject is of interest to the controller of the national finances of Spain, as the tobacco monopoly is an important one, and brings in large sums to the state coffers. The first European who became acquainted with the plant was a Spaniard named Pane, who remained in San Domingo on Columbus' return to Spain after his second voyage. He found it used by the natives principally as a medicine. The first specimens of the plant were sent by him to Seville in 1499; but its use in Europe was mainly due to Jean Nicot, a Frenchman of Nimes, who was French ambassador in Portugal in 1560. Its introduction into England by Sir Walter Raleigh, who brought it from Virginia, dates

from 1585. THE SWISS REPUBLIC.

It Has an Executive Council, But No. President. Under the Swiss system, says the North American Review, the executive power is vested, not in a president, but in a council or cabinet of seven, which holds office for three years. The couneil apportions the departments of state among its own members, and "the members of the council have the right to speak and make proposals in either house of the federal legislature, but not to vote." When the measures proposed by the Swiss ministers are defeated in the legislature, they simply return to their desks and go on with the business of their departments, a form of procedure which has stood the test of experience. We have, therefore, a most satisfactory precedent upon the one vital point at which we must depart from the English model. The Swiss constitution, like our own, is federal; and its federal legislature consists of two chambers. The Swiss executive council or cabinet holds for three years instead of four; the Swiss ministers possess the right to sit in either house, to initiate legislation and debate, without the right to vote; and when the vote upon measures pro-

in office until the end of their terms. HAD TO HAVE HIS PIPE.

Humble Guest.

posed by them is adverse, they remain

The Rich Chicago Contractor and His

In one of the fashionable quarters of Chicago, according to the Times, lives an Irishman who has made a fortune as a contractor. He has never forgotten the friends of his youth, especially one Casey, a boss mason, who still lives in the Goose Island district. Casey does not feel exactly at home in the big house, but out of regard for his old friend often spends an evening there with him. On a recent occasion of this sort, a heavy rain set in just as it came time for the visitor to take his leave. "Look here, Mike," said the contractor, as they reached the door, "there's no need of your goin' home in this flood. I have a spare room upstairs. Stay over night wid me." "All right, Tim," replied Casey; "Oi will. The ould woman won't worry." The contractor summoned a servant and had Casey shown to the "spare room." Then he returned to his den to look over the plans of a new block he had on hand. The work kept him absorbed till nearly midnight, when he was startled by a sharp ring at the door-bell. Every one else had retired, and he answered the bell in person. When he opened the frontdoor, there stood Casey, dripping wet, with a smile on his face. "How's this, Mike?" exclaimed the contractor; "I thought ye was to stay all night here.' "So I am, me boy," replied the smiling Casey; "that's why I went home for me

An honest young man, who had escaped a great peril by an act of heroism, was much complimented for his bravery. One lady said: "I wish I could have seen your feat." Whereupon he blushed and stammered, and finally pointing to his pedal extremities, said: "Well, there they be, mum."

IN EUROPEAN SOCIETY.

Americans Rarely Succeed in Entering the Inner Circles.

Americans, says Vogue, fail to realize that Europeans recognize no social or class distinction in this country. Our people know that this is a republie, that it has been a republic for more than a century, and that the principal doctrine upon which the entire national fabric is founded is that of universal equality. They cannot, therefore, unlerstand that there should be any kind of class distinction or gradations of society. In their eyes all Americans are equal, and the question as to what coterie or clique their American acquaintances belong to in this country weighs but very little with the grand monde in Europe. It is utterly immaterial to them whether their American acquaintance has ever had a grandfather or not: or, if he had, who his grandfather was. They do not care one brass farthing whether he or she happens to be a "born millionaire" or a "made millionaire," and they take their American friends purely and entirely on their merits, altogether irrespective of the

enjoy on this side of the Atlantic. But once an American has succeeded in getting himself accepted by the best European society, his position is really a most delightful one, since he is regarded as beyond the pale of class distinction, and is allowed a freedom and a latitude which would never be accorded to any native, no matter how high his or her rank. Notwithstanding all that is claimed to the contrary, there are relatively very few Americans who may really be said to have penetrated the inner circles of European society.

sociel status and prestige they may

NOT RECEIVING.

A Young Widow's Too Aggressive Caller

Neatly Rebuked. A man of the world was wont to call, not unfrequently, upon a young widow, says the Illustrated American. One day the pretty maid at the door announced that her mistress was out of town. On some pretext, however, the man entered. He also talked to the maid. Some days later, knowing that the lady had returned, he called again. He was a bit surprised when a strange maid met him at the door and showed him to the little reception-room. While she carried his card up the stairs, he reflected that she was not so dainty as her predecessor, and she was not so pretty, though her uniform was similar, and her cap was as stiff and her apron as spotless. He was realizing how much more woman is to the dress. than the dress is to the woman, when the maid returned and announced promptly: "Mrs. - is not receiving." The man of the world bit his lips-it war hie first time he had ever been denied admittance-and moved toward the door. The maid held it open for him and as he passed through it she blurted out: "And she says, if you please, sir, the maids receive in the

THE WALLS OF SEOUL.

How a Party of Travelers Scaled Them After Nightfall. Seoul, like Pekin, and, what is more, ike all the cities of Corea and China, says a traveler, writing in the New York Herald, is surrounded by immense walls; and the gates of the city are closed each evening at set of sun. The latter had been replaced by the moon when we arrived at the foot of these great walls, which must be all of fifty feet in height. Not wishing to leave us to pass the night outside the city and exposed to numberless dangers, the minister had had the happy idea to have us conveyed to a secluded

spot where we were assisted to climb ver the walls. A score of Coreans sat astride the top and lowered strong ropes. The ascent was perilous and very difficult. It took at least a half hour to hoist one of our friends, who being enormously stout, gave to the Coreans an immense deal of difficulty, and, besides, he, terrified to* find himself swinging in space at the end of a rope, to our great delight, uttered howls of fright. Thus was our entry into Seoul something less than

triumphant. A Brave Engineer. During the recent strike in the coal egions, a Hocking Valley coal train was stopped by the strikers about a quarter of a mile from a wooden ridge. The leader of the strikers told the engineer that he must not pull the train through, and the engineer declared that he would, "Come down, Jim!" cried one of the strikers. "We know you too well to harm you. We have a keg of powder on that bridge, and when the boys see you coming they are going to light the fuse." "All right," replied the engineer, grimly. Tve promised to pull this train through, and through she goes." With these words he opened the throttle.

was blown to splinters. The fuse was a quarter-inch too long.

and the train dashed on. The strikers

aw the train coming and lit the fuse.

On and over the bridge the train went;

as the last car cleared the structure,

bang! went the powder, and the bridge

The Three Periods of Man's Life. Lady Dufferin was closely related to Sheridan Le Fanu, of whom Lord Dufferin tells a little story. When a little boy, Sheridan le Fanu wrote an essay on the life of man, which ran as folows: "A man's life naturally divides itself into three parts—the first when he is planning and contriving all kinds of villainy and rascality; that is the period of youth and innocense. In the econd, he is found putting in practice all the villainy and rascality he has contrived; that is the flower of mangood and prime of life. The third and ast period is that when he is making his soul and preparing for another

world: that is the period of dotage. Law of Gravitation Reversed.

A lawyer by the name of Mayne, who was a highly respected but deidedly heavy person, had risen to a judgeship, while Jeffrey Keller, who had entered on his legal career at about the same time with Mayne, but was more noted as a wit than as a lawyer, was still much in want of clients and fees. The latter was in a courtroom one day, when Mayne was solemnly presiding, and he turned to a friend, who sat beside him, and plucked at his sleeve. "See there!" he whispered; "there sits Mayne, risen by his gravity, and here sits Keller, sunk by his levity. What would Sir Isaac Newton say to that, I'd like to know?"